

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering at least one item or service from a provider to a receiver, the method comprising:

receiving an order for at least one item or service available from the provider, the order identifying a receiver to which to deliver the at least one item or service;

determining whether a financial processor is authorized to provide payment for the at least one item or service to the provider on behalf of the receiver, and if so providing [[an]] a unique order identifier in response thereto to receiving the order;

obtaining the unique order identifier from the receiver at substantially a time of delivery;

providing information regarding the unique order identifier obtained at the time of delivery to [[a]] the financial processor;

in response to the information regarding the unique order identifier being provided to the financial processor, providing payment for the at least one item or service from the financial processor to the provider; and

in response to payment being provided to the provider, delivering the at least one item or service to the receiver.

2. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the information regarding the order identifier is provided to the provider prior to providing the information regarding the order identifier to the financial processor.

3. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the information regarding the order identifier is provided to the financial processor substantially immediately upon receipt at the time of delivery.

4. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the information regarding the order identifier is provided to the financial processor with other information from other transactions.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering at least one item or service from a provider to a receiver, the system comprising:

a provider device for a provider offering at least one of an item or a service, the provider device being capable of receiving an order for the at least one item or service from the receiver, determining whether a financial processor is authorized to provide payment for the at least one item or service to the provider on behalf of the receiver, and if so providing the receiver with [[an]] a unique order identifier in response thereto to receiving the order;

at least one communication channel for providing communication between the provider, and at least one of a deliverer, a financial processor, and the receiver of the at least one item or service; and [,.]

a data gathering device for transmitting data about the unique order identifier obtained by the deliverer at substantially a time of delivery of the at least one item or service to at least one of the provider and the financial processor, payment being provided for the at least one item or service in response to the transmitted data to at least one of the financial processor and the provider, delivery of the at least one item or service to the receiver being contingent upon said payment being provided.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining payment for an item or service near the time of delivery, comprising:

obtaining [[an]] a unique order identifier from the intended recipient of at least one of an item and a service at substantially a time of delivery for the item or service, the unique order identifier being received by the intended recipient in response to a determination that a

financial processor is authorized to provide payment for the at least one item or service to the provider on behalf of the receiver for the [[an]] order for the at least one of an item and a service;

providing ~~information about~~ the obtained unique order identifier to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service;

receiving a determination as to whether payment for the item or service is at least one of approved and accepted based on the information about the obtained unique order identifier; and

approving delivery of the item or service to the intended recipient when the received determination indicates that payment for the item or service is at least one of approved and accepted.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein:

obtaining an order identifier includes obtaining at least one piece of data selected from the group consisting of a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, a purchase order number, and a purchase order-type document.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, further comprising:
returning the item or service undelivered when the received determination indicates that payment for the item or service is not at least one of approved and accepted.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein:

providing the obtained ~~identifying information~~ unique order identifier to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service includes transmitting ~~the information about~~ the obtained order identifier to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service at substantially the time of delivery.

11. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the order identifier is selected from the group consisting of a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, a purchase order number, and a purchase order-type document.

12. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 5 wherein the order identifier is selected from the group consisting of a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, a purchase order number, and a purchase order-type document.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of completing delivery of at least one item or service from a provider to a receiver, the method comprising:

receiving an order for at least one item or service available from the provider, the order identifying a receiver to which to deliver the at least one item or service;

determining whether a financial processor is authorized to provide payment for the at least one item or service to the provider on behalf of the receiver, and if so providing [[an]] a unique order identifier in response thereto to receiving the order;

obtaining the unique order identifier at substantially a time of delivery, the order identifier being obtained from the receiver or from a deliverer receiving the unique order identifier from the receiver;

in response to obtaining the unique order identifier, providing information regarding the unique order identifier to a financial processor;

in response to the information regarding the unique order identifier being provided to the financial processor, receiving payment for the at least one item or service from the financial processor; and

in response to receiving payment, instructing the deliverer to deliver the at least one item or service to the receiver.